

Navistar International
Transportation Corp.

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OFFICE
EFFECTS INVESTIGATION



INTERNATIONAL

November 16, 1999

99V- 331 (01)

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20590

Subject: Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report

Pursuant to Part 573.5, this Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report is submitted by Navistar International Transportation Corp.

This report relates to an interference condition between one of the air brake lines and the exhaust system.

- (1) NAVISTAR RECALL NUMBER ASSIGNED: 99511
- (2) VEHICLE MODELS INVOLVED: 3800 and Amtran FE bus models.
- (3) MODEL YEARS INVOLVED: 1997 through 1999
- (4) OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLES:
Vehicles with air ABS, air suspension, and a left side tail pipe.
- (5) VEHICLE MANUFACTURING DATES: 8/12/97 through 9/27/99
- (6) VEHICLE POPULATION INVOLVED: The total U.S. suspect population is two hundred and seventy seven (277).
- (7) PORTION OF POPULATION ESTIMATED TO CONTAIN DEFECT: 25% of the suspect population is expected to have this defect.

NAVISTAR

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- (8) **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:** An air brake line controlling the rear brakes may be too close to the exhaust pipe and may rupture at any time without warning under normal driving conditions. Exhaust pipe heat can melt or cause premature failure of this air line if the air line is routed too close to the exhaust pipe.
- (9) **RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY:** If the air line ruptures the loss of air pressure in the rear brake system may result in the following two conditions: 1. The rear brakes may not actuate when the operator applies pressure to the brake pedal (loss of rear brakes) and 2. The rear park brake may automatically apply and cause the vehicle to slow or stop until air pressure is restored. A ruptured air line could cause a vehicular accident, resulting in possible property damage, personal injury, or death.
- (10) **CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF A SAFETY DEFECT:**
- A. 9/7/99: Thomas Bus Company informed Navistar that some 3800 model buses had a potential interference problem between the air line and the exhaust pipe.
 - B. 9/9/99: A Navistar field representative reported three 3800 models built for Thomas Bus Company with an interference problem between the air line and the exhaust pipe.
 - C. 9/10/99: A plant containment action was implemented for 3800 models.
 - D. 9/13/99: Navistar representatives met to begin investigations into the potential component combinations and models that could have this assembly problem.
 - E. 11/4/99: Navistar received field inspection information confirming that this problem exists on Amtran FE models also.
 - F. 11/9/99: Investigations that began on 9/13/99 were completed and a plant containment action was implemented for Amtran FE models.
 - G. 11/10/99: A safety recall was declared.
- (11) **PROGRAM TO BE TAKEN TO REMEDY DEFECT:** All vehicles with the suspect air line will require a new elbow fitting and rerouting of the air line. The air line will also be inspected and replaced if found to be damaged from the exhaust pipe.
- (12) **THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS RECALL IS:**

Notify Navistar Field Service: 11/29/99
Notify Navistar Dealers: 12/6/99
Notify Customers: 12/13/99

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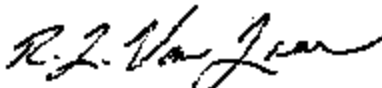
(13) **PROCEDURE TO INFORM SECRETARY OF FAILURE TO REMEDY WITHOUT CHARGE:** Paragraph to be added to owner notification letter as follows: If you take your vehicle to your International dealer on a mutually agreed upon service date and the dealer does not remedy this condition without charge on that date or within five days, you can obtain assistance by following the procedure described in the Owner Assistance Guide section of your Owner's Manual. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393 (Washington, D.C., area residents may call 336-0123) if your International dealer fails to remedy or is unable to remedy this condition without charge or within a reasonable time.

(14) **OWNER LETTER AND TECHNICAL LETTER:** Refer to number (12).

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall on (219) 461-1890.

Very truly yours,

NAVISTAR INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORTATION CORP.



R. L. Van Laar
Compliance Manager

Certified Mail # Z 276 409 887

cc: B. S. Henriksen - Navistar Truck Reliability Center

99K-331 (D4)

bcc: V. W. Allen - OBT
J. W. Callahan - NTEC
J. A. Gaylord - NTEC
R. Kempf - NTEC
T. E. Nelson - TRC
A. Opila - WH-10
R. D. Price - NTEC
M. K. Clark - TRC